

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-05

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

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R 071347Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8686

UNCLAS LAGOS 3155

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, US, NI

SUBJ: USG STATISTICS ON US OIL IMPORTS

REF: STATE 046873

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS/PETROLEUM

STATEMENT FROM U.S. BUREAU OF MINES FOR NOVEMBER 1974 AND LEARNED FOR FIRST TIME U.S. IMPORTED 30,373,000 BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL FROM NIGERIA IN THAT MONTH. THIS WOULD ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 47 PERCENT OF NIGERIA CRUDE EXPORTS AND WAS IN FACT EQUAL TO 26 PERCENT OF U.S. CRUDE IMPORTS. IT WASUFABLY FIRST MONTH IN HISTORY THAT ANY COUNTRY EXCEPT CANADA EXPORTED MORE THAN ONE MILLION BARRELS PER DAY TO U.S. AT THIS RATE, U.S. WOULD BE PAYING CLOSE TO \$5 BILLION PER YEAR FOR NIGERIA OIL.

2. EMBASSY DOES NOT WISH TO EXAGGERATE IMPORTANCE OR URGENCY OF SUCH FIGURES, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO KEEP ABRAST OF ALL COMMERCE BETWEEN U.S. AND NIGERIA, ESPECIALLY OIL, AND IT IS DOWNRIGHT EMBARRASSING NOT TO HAVE ACCES TO STATISTICS COMPILED BY THE USG ITSELF UNTIL FOUR MONTHS OR MORE AFTER THE FACT.

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AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, EMBASSY HAS BEEN TRYING FOR OVER A YEAR

TO OBTAIN OIL DATA FROM U.S. ON MORE TIMELY BASIS.

3. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED FEA PUBLICATIONS PROMISED REFTEL, SO WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT DATA THEY CONTAIN OR THEIR TIMELINES. MAYBE FEA PUBLICATIONS WILL MEET OUR NEED. IF NOT, WE PROPOSE THAT CIA MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL OIL DEVELOPMENTS" PRINT UP-TO MINUTE UNCLASSIFIED TABLE OF U.S. CRUDE OIL AND PRODUCT IMPORTS BY MONTH AND COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

4. IN ANY EVENT, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP BY CABLE EIGHT NUMBERS SHOWING U.S. CRUDE OIL IMPORTS (TOTAL AND FROM NIGERIA) FOR DECEMBER 1974 AND JANUARY, FEBRUARY,, AND MARCH 1975.
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